

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02
SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-08 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 L-03 H-02 TRSE-00 IGA-02 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02
PER-03 AGRE-00 /150 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1952
AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 672
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 1519

FOR FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF (OFDA)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE: SITREP 2, MARCH 6

REF: A. STATE 049457 B. BUCHAREST 1491

1. SUMMARY. REPORTS OF LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGE TO HOMES
AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY HAVE BEEN ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE
DURING COURSE OF SUNDAY. ON BASIS OF PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS
THROUGH LAST EVENING AND OUR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS
TODAY, IT IS APPARENT THAT LOSSES SUFFERED ARE CON-
SIDERABLE IN BOTH HUMAN AND ECONOMIC TERMS. END
SUMMARY.

2. HARD INFORMATION ON EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKE CONTINUE
TO BE FRAGMENTARY, BUT WE HAVE COLLECTED FOLLOWING
INFORMATION BEARING ON AREAS OF OFDA INTEREST:

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A. MOST AFFECTED AREAS. FOREIGN MINISTER MACO-
COVESCU INFORMED AMBASSADOR TODAY (SEPTTEL) THAT
BUCHAREST AND CRAIOVA WERE MOST ERIOUSLY
AFFECTED URBAN CENTERS BUT THAT REPORTS FROM MOLDAVIA
WERE ONLY SLOWLY FILTERING IN. SCINTEIA CARRIES RE-
PORTS OF DAMAGE OF VARYING DEGREE OF SEVERITY IN FOL-
LOWING JUDET: PRAHOVA, DIMBOVITA, TELEORMAN, VASLUI,

DOLJ, IASI, AND GALATI. EMBASSY OFFICER WHO TRAVELED NORTHWARD TODAY SAID THAT THERE WAS LITTLE VISIBLE DAMAGE IN FOCSANI, GHEORGHE GHEORGHIU-DEJ AND ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE IN BUZAU.

B. DEATHS/INJURIES/HOMELESS. SUNDAY SCINTEIA REPORTS THAT AS OF EVENING OF MARCH 5 THERE WERE 508 RECORDED DEATHS IN BUCHAREST AND 72 IN REST OF COUNTRY (30 IN CRAIOVA). INJURY TOLL PLACED AT OVER 2600 IN CAPITAL (1200 OF WHOM WERE HOSPITALIZED) AND 614 IN OTHER AREAS. (300) IN CRAIOVA). UNOFFICIAL REPORTS (NOT TO BE DIVULGED) SUGGEST CASUALTIES WILL RISE MUCH HIGHER. ONE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTEDLY PLACED TOLL AT OVER 4,000 (INCLUDING 1000 IN ONE HOSPITAL ALONE), WHILE TWO AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS QUOTED STAFF OF HOSPITAL IN WHICH THEY WERE WORKING AS INDICATING THAT NUMBER OF DEAD STOOD AT 2,000 AND EXPECTED TO RISE TO 3,000. NUMBER OF HOMELESS IS MOUNTING RAPIDLY WITH 2,900 APARTMENT UNITS EVACUATED IN BUCHAREST AS UNSAFE BY MARCH 5 WITH INSPECTION ONLY PARTIALLY COMPLETED. FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT TOTAL OF UNINHABITABLE APARTMENT UNITS COULD RISE TO 20,000.

C. GOR RELIEF EFFORTS. POLEXCO IN MARCH 5 SESSION DECIDED THAT PERMANENT BUREAU WOULD FUNCTION AS COMMAND CENTER TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES, WITH INDIVIDUAL POLEXCO MEMBERS DESPATCHED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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AFFECTED AREAS TO ASSIST IN RELIEF/RECOVERY OPERATIONS. MEASURES DECIDED UPON INCLUDE: REMOVAL OF FICTIMS FROM RUINS, RELEASE FROM HOSPITALS OF AMBULATORY PATIENTS TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR NJURED, AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY ALL DAMAGE TO RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS. TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY QUARTERS FOR HOMELESS (1) SOME UNIDENTIFIED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING ARE TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY WITH STUDENT QUARTERS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WITHOUT SHELTER WHILE STUDENTS ARE IMPESSED INTO RELIEF ACTIVITIES; (2) UNOCCUPIED BUT FINISHED APARTMENT BLOCKS WILL BE UTILIZED; AND (3) CITIZENRY WILL, WHERE THERE IS NEED, BE REQUIRED TO SHARE THEIR PREMISES WITH THOSE AFFECTED. NATURAL GAS SUPPLY WILL REPORTEDLY BE CUT OFF TO REDUCE RISK OF EXPLOSIONS (THIS HAD NOT OCCURRED UNIFORMLY), AND WATER SUPPLIES ARE TO BE RATIONED. UNSPECIFIED MEASURES ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE FOOD SUPPLY, ESPECIALLY BREAD

PRODUCTION. ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN AGAINST HORDING. ADDITIONAL SERIES OF STEPS OUTLINED TO HASTEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY: PROLONGED WORK SHIFTS, VERIFICATION OF SITUATION RELATING TO HYDROELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS, AND CHEMICAL AND METALLURGICAL ENTERPRISES, SAFE-KEEPING OF GOVERNMENT RECORDS AND SUSPENSION/POSTPONEMENT OF ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS.

D. DAMAGE TO VITAL STRUCTURES. SCINTEIA REPORTED NINE HOSPITALS OUT OF OPERATION IN BUCHAREST. SAME SUMMARY GAVE ASSURANCES OF SUFFICIENT MEDICINE, PLASMA, AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES WHICH SEEMINGLY AT VARIANCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST TO EVERAL FOREIGN MISSION FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. RAIL TRAFFIC DELAYED AND SOME TRAINS EITHER CANCELLED OR DIVERTED FROM NORTH STATION TO OBOR. PROBLEM REPORTEDLY LINKED TO BREAKDOWN OF AUTOMATIC UNCLASSIFIED

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SWITCHING FACILITY WHICH MAY BE RELATED TO REPORTED COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPUTER CENTER. BOTH BUCHAREST AIRPORT REMAIN OPEN. FROM EMBASSY SURVEY ALL MAIN ROADS LEADING TO BUCHAREST ARE OPEN (PLOIESTI, PITESTI, GIURGIU, OLTENITA, CONSTANTA); TRAFFIC WAS LIGHT. THREE THERMAL POWER STATIONS SERVING BUCHAREST (WEST, SOUTH AND GROZAVESTI) REPORTED BY SCINTEIA AS HAVING SUFFERED SERIOUS DAMAGE, BUT RADIO BUCHAREST REPORTED AT 1500 HRS THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT NORMAL POWER SERVICE WOULD BE RESUMED TOMORROW. FAILURE OF HIGH TENSION TRANSFORMER IN PRAHOVA JUDET SAID TO HAVE LEFT SEVERAL COMMUNITIES PLUS PART OF PLOIESTI WITHOUT POWER. THREE KEY GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS--INTERIOR, MILITIA, PTT--HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.

3. INDUSTRIAL LOSSES. SEVERAL MAJOR INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS IN BUCHAREST WERE REPORTED AS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, INCLUDING "23 AUGUSTI PLANT. PETROCHEMICAL COMBINES AT BRAZI AND TELEAJEN SAID TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY FIRES. OPERATIONS AT SPECIAL STEEL FACILITY AT TIRGOVISTE INTERRUPTED, AND METALLURGICAL COMPLEX AT GALATI CEASED SEVERAL OPERATIONS DUE TO ELECTRICAL FAILURE.

4. FOOD SUPPLY. FROM OUR FORAYS AROUND CITY, FOOD SITUATION SEEMS QUITE SATISFACTORY. ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BREAD, SUGAR, FLOUR, PROCESSED MEATS, CHICKEN, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND MILK APPEAR

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O 061602Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIAC IMMEDIATE 1953
USUN NEW YORK NIAC IMMEDIATE 673
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 1519

FOR FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF (OFDA)

ADEQUATE, IN SOME CASES BETTER THAN IN RECENT MONTHS.
THERE ARE LINES FOR BREAD AND MINERAL WATER BUT
THESE ARE NOT EXCEPTIONALLY LONG.

5. RECOVERY OPERATIONS. MOST HIGHLY AFFECTED AREAS
OF CENTRAL CITY HAVE BEEN CORDONED OFF. WITH
ASSISTANCE OF SOLDIERS, PERSONAL EFFECTS ARE BEING
EVACUATED FROM NUMEROUS BUILDINGS. EMBASSY STAFF
MEMBERS HAVE WITNESSED BRIGADES OF WORKERS AND
SOLDIERS WITH PICKS AND SHOVELS, HEADING IN
DIRECTIONS OF HARD-HIT AREAS.

6. OFFERS OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. DUE TO
LIMITED PHONE COMMUNICATIONS AND DETOURS CAUSED BY
RELIEF ACTIVITIES WE HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO
COMMUNICATE WITH LIMITED GROUP OF POTENTIAL FOREIGN
DONORS:

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A. UK. BRITISH AMBASSADOR INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU SATURDAY THAT HMG OFFERED 20,000 POUNDS STERLING WORTH OF COMMODITIES, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION OR 10,000 POUNDS STERLING IN CASH.

B. FRANCE. OPEN OFFER WAS EXTENDED IN PARIS. MACOVESCU PRESENTED FRENCH AMBASSADOR WITH IDENTICAL LIST OF MEDICINES REQUESTED FROM US.

C. FRG. GERMANS ALSO RECEIVED REQUESTED LIST OF MEDICINES. EMBASSY IS AWAITING ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REQUESTS.

D. UNDP. RESIDENT REP WAS INVITED TO MFA BUT HAS NOT CONTACTED US SINCE HIS RETURN.

E. CANADA. CANADIAN EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTION FROM OTTAWA AS OF THIS MORNING.

*. DENMARK. DANES WILL NOT MAKE OFFER UNTIL THEY RECEIVE REQUEST.

G. SWITZERLAND. SWISS HAVE REPORTEDLY SENT TEAM OF DOGS TRAINED TO LOCATE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN WRECKAGE.
BARNES

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